



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

September 30, 2008

Senator Martha Fuller Clark, Chairman
Energy, Environment and Economic Development
Room 103
Legislative Office Building
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Senator Clark:

In May 2008, the Department received a nomination for the inclusion of the Cocheco River into the Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP). As proposed by the nominating organization (Cocheco River Watershed Coalition) designation would begin at the outlet of March's Pond in New Durham and end at the head of tide at Central Avenue Dam in Dover. My review of the nomination considered the important resources outlined in the nomination, public comments received by the Department, and the recommendations of the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) and the Rivers Coordinator. Based on this review and considering the factors listed in RSA 483:6, IV, I have determined that designation of the Cocheco River would be consistent with the purposes of RSA 483, and I am strongly recommending its inclusion in the RMPP.

Resource Evaluation

The Cocheco River received 527 points out of a maximum of 595 under the point system evaluation for river-related resources outlined in Env-Wq 1800 (Administrative Rules for the RMPP). In all five categories - natural resources, managed resources, cultural resources, recreational resources, and other resources - the Cocheco River was awarded a majority of the points available.

Public Comments

The RMAC and the Department held a public informational meeting and a formal public hearing in July to gain further public input on the designation of the Cocheco River. To date, the Department has received twenty-six (26) endorsements supporting the nomination, including three from local boards of selectmen and city council, one from a planning board, and two from conservation commissions. There was one letter of opposition from a city council and one letter requesting to table the nomination from a hydroelectric development.

Recommendations by the RMAC and the Rivers Coordinator

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) reviewed the nomination, conducted a site visit, and held a public hearing. The RMAC was satisfied with the level of local support for the nomination and recommended that the Cocheco River be designated into the RMPP.

The Rivers Coordinator reviewed nomination materials, listened to testimony at the public hearing, received correspondence related to the nomination, and visited the river. Based on this information, the Rivers Coordinator recommended that the nomination of the Cocheco River into the Rivers Management and Protection Program be forwarded to the General Court for consideration in the 2009 session. As the

DES Web site: www.des.nh.gov

P.O. Box 95, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

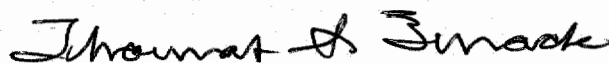
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individual with primary responsibility for evaluating river nominations, the Rivers Coordinator recommends moving the nomination forward at this time, an important step in recognizing the importance of the Cocheco River as a significant statewide resource.

Enclosed please find a copy of the Cocheco River Nomination and a map showing the boundaries of the proposed designation. Also enclosed is a draft bill that outlines the recommended classifications for the designation of the Cocheco River into the Rivers Management and Protection Program. The Department is currently preparing a Report to the General Court specifying in greater detail the values and characteristics that qualify the Cocheco River for designation. The report will be completed in time for consideration in the 2009 legislative session.

The Cocheco River meets the criteria for designation and is a worthy addition to the Rivers Management and Protection Program. I hereby forward the Nomination to the General Court for review and legislative approval according to RSA 483:7.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

Enclosures
TSB/smc

CC: Katherine W. Peters, Special Assistant for Policy, Governor's Office

Councilor Beverly A. Hollingworth

Councilor John D. Shea

Senator Jacalyn Cilley

Senator Iris S. Estabrook

Senator Joseph D. Kenney

Senator Kathleen Sgambati

Representative Deborah Billian

Representative Jennifer Brown

Representative Larry Brown

Representative Rachel Burke

Representative Marlene De Chane

Representative Baldwin Domingo

Representative Earle Goodwin

Representative Roland Hofemann

Representative Sara Hutz

Representative Shawn Mickelsonis

Representative Robert Perry

Representative Robert Srnc

Representative Nancy Warren

Boards of Selectmen New Durham, Middleton, and Farmington

Mayor and City Council Rochester and Dover

Mike Walls, Assistant Commissioner, DES (via electronic mail)

Harry Stewart, Director, Water Division, DES (via electronic mail)

Paul Currier, Administrator, Watershed Management Bureau, DES (via electronic mail)

Lorie Chase, Cocheco River Watershed Coalition (via electronic mail)

RMAC Members (via electronic mail)

LRMAC Chairs (via electronic mail)

Representative William Brennan

Representative Julie Brown

Representative Brendon Browne

Representative James Cyr

Representative Herbert D. Richardson

Representative Thomas Fargo

Representative Anne Grassie

Representative Pamela Hubbard

Representative William Knowles

Representative Kay Oppenheimer

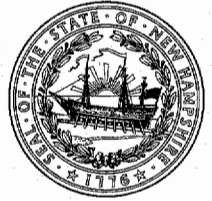
Representative Peter Schmidt

Representative Dennis Vachon

Representative Robert Watson



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

September 30, 2008

Representative Judith Spang, Chairman
Resources, Recreation, and Development
Room 305
Legislative Office Building
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Representative Spang:

In May 2008, the Department received a nomination for the inclusion of the Cocheco River into the Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP). As proposed by the nominating organization (Cocheco River Watershed Coalition) designation would begin at the outlet of March's Pond in New Durham and end at the head of tide at Central Avenue Dam in Dover. My review of the nomination considered the important resources outlined in the nomination, public comments received by the Department, and the recommendations of the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) and the Rivers Coordinator. Based on this review and considering the factors listed in RSA 483:6, IV, I have determined that designation of the Cocheco River would be consistent with the purposes of RSA 483, and I am strongly recommending its inclusion in the RMPP.

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